

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW PUMA FROM TEXAS.

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On the rolling plains of southern Texas, including much of Webb county, semi-desert scrub timber, interspersed with grasslands, combines conditions which are very favorable for white-tailed deer. The area, with a good deer population, is regarded as one of the more important game ranges of the Southwest. Pumas, more generally known as mountain lions, have also remained numerous, owing to the abundance of their favorite prey. In connection with predatory-animal control operations sixteen additional museum specimens, skins with skulls, have been obtained. Study of these along with material previously available has resulted in the segregation of a regional subspecies.

The new geographic race is named for Stanley P. Young, under whose direction the specimens were collected.

Felis concolor youngi, subsp. nov.

TEXAS PUMA.

Type.—From Bruni Ranch, near Bruni, southeastern Webb County, Texas. No. 251419, ♂ young adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection), collected by Ira Wood, October 6, 1934. X-catalogue number 27354.

Distribution.—Central and southern Texas and northeastern Mexico, intergrading on the west with *Felis concolor azteca*.

General characters.—Closely allied to *Felis concolor azteca* of the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua, but usually larger, and upper parts lighter, more suffused with gray, less distinctly tawny; black on tip of tail usually more restricted; cranial details, especially heavier dentition, distinctive. Similar in general to *Felis concolor coryi* of Florida, but much paler, and skull differing notably in form of nasals. Distinguished from *Felis concolor hippolestes* of the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming by smaller size, paler color, and cranial features.

Color.—*Type* (October pelage): Top of head, neck, and median dorsal

area between tawny and ochraceous tawny (Ridgway, 1912), suffused with buffy gray, slightly darkened by black-tipped hairs along posterior part of back; sides of neck, shoulders, and flanks near cinnamon buff, paling to pinkish buff on feet; upper lips, except usual blackish areas at base of vibrissae, chin, and throat nearly pure white; under surface of neck pinkish buff; chest, inner sides of limbs, and median line of abdomen dull white, the darker basal color showing through; inguinal region nearly pure white, interrupted by two narrow, rather indistinct, transverse, crescentic markings opening forward; face in general brownish gray, the whitish supra-orbital spots distinct; ears blackish externally, with grayish median spots, thinly clothed with white hairs internally; tail similar to posterior part of back above, becoming grayish below to near black tip, the black nearly pure extending forward about one inch on upper side. Other specimens from the type locality and general region vary from grayer to more tawny above than the type.

Skull.—Closely resembling that of *azteca*, but larger and heavier; zygomata relatively less widely spreading; dentition heavier, the size difference most apparent in the canines and carnassials. Similar in size to that of *coryi*, but frontal region less highly arched; nasals much more depressed, usually narrower; dentition similarly heavy. Compared with that of *hippolestes* the skull is usually smaller, with relatively narrower zygomata and heavier dentition.

Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 2,134 mm. *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 220; zygomatic breadth, 141.8; interorbital breadth, 42.6; least width between outer walls of interpterygoid fossa, 29.4; alveolar length of upper canine-premolar series, 68.1; length of crown of upper carnassial, 24.3; antero-posterior diameter of upper canine at alveolus, 16.5. An adult female from Encinal, La Salle County: Greatest length, 191; zygomatic breadth, 123.3; interorbital breadth, 37.9; least width between outer walls of interpterygoid fossa, 27.7; alveolar length of upper canine-premolar series, 57.8; length of crown of upper carnassial, 20.3; antero-posterior diameter of upper canine at alveolus, 12.8.

Remarks.—Intermediate in geographic position, *F. c. youngi* tends to combine some of the characters of typical *F. c. azteca* of the mountains along the backbone of the continent in Chihuahua and southwestern New Mexico, and of *F. c. coryi* which formerly inhabited the Gulf coast region from Louisiana to Florida. Among cranial details the nasals, unlike those of *coryi*, are depressed much as in *azteca*. In heavy dentition *youngi* agrees closely with *coryi*; in usually grayer coloration a departure from both *azteca* and *coryi* is exhibited.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 29, as follows: Texas: Allamore, 1; Boquillas, 1 (skull only); Brownsville, 1 (skull only); Bruni Ranch, Webb County (type locality), 2; Carrizo Springs (35 miles south), 1; Carr's Ranch, Davis Mountains, 2 (skulls only), Catarina, 1; Comstock, 1 (skull only); Comstock (9 miles south), 1; Crockett County, 1 (skull only); Dilley (15 miles east), 2; Eagle Pass, 1 (skull only); Encinal, 4; Laredo (20 miles east), 1; San Antonio, 1 (skull only); Pearsall (26 miles south), 1; Sheffield, 1; Soledad Ranch, Webb County, 2; Webb County (without definite locality), 2. Tamaulipas: Matamoras, 2.